



**OPCW**

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ENGLISH and RUSSIAN only

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR A.V. SHULGIN  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO  
THE OPCW AT THE 101ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 10(L)**

Mr Chairperson,

First, please allow me to address a matter of procedure. The draft decision on the rehiring of inspectors, as well as the inclusion in the Director-General's report on implementation of the tenure policy in 2021, were made available on the Catalyst platform basically on the evening before the session. Moreover, no informal consultations were held on the draft decision over the intersessional period. As a result, the delegation was deprived of any opportunity to hold substantive discussions and enter, as needed, corrections to the text of the document. We urge the Technical Secretariat to prevent such situations from taking place in the future and to prepare the drafts of important decisions sufficiently in advance.

In spite of the fact that the Russian Federation has comments on the language used, specifically with regard to the Secretariat's evaluation of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its inspection operations (paragraphs 3 and 4 of the preamble), we will not voice any objections to the adoption of this draft.

However, we would specifically underscore that these types of decisions should be an exception, with extremely limited application, and should not go against the fundamental principle of the non-career nature of service with the OPCW.

We request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the 101st Session of the Council and published on the Catalyst platform and the OPCW website.

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